

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY (Prayer/Pledge/Moment of Silence): Pastor Doug Wright of First Baptist Church, Park Avenue, offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mrs. Alice T. Cook	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	(Ward 5 Councilor)
	Mr. Richard F. Balog	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

SUNSHINE LAW: The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.

PRESENTATION(S): None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items and disposing of or enacting them by one motion, a second, and a vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the following meeting minutes for disposal:

- March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting
- March 16, 2015 Public Hearing

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections the minutes were approved as presented.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to move the following Consent Agenda Legislation to the Regular Agenda Legislation Reading portion of the meeting; motion CARRIED:

ORDINANCE

2015-33 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RONYAK BROTHERS PAVING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MATERIAL & SERVICES FOR PAVING CITY STREETS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF ASHTABULA TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT FUNDS. (City Manager)

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES – None

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Contract with Union Industrial Contractors for Hulbert Avenue Rehabilitation Project

The City Manager formally requested ORDINANCE NO. 2015-47 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$268,777 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE HULBERT AVENUE REHABILITATION PROJECT. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager’s request. The President asked if the amount is less than originally estimated. The City Manager responded, it is almost all the grant funds that are available for the project; and is about what was expected.

At the President's asking, the Manager confirmed that all the old brick will be removed and new brick will be laid, but that it will not be Medina stone, which is really expensive. The Manager reported there initially was going to be an alternate in the bid in order to save the Medina stone that is being removed. However, it was going to cost upwards of \$80,000. Because of an agreement with the Historic Preservation Society of Ohio, the old Medina bricks will be reused in crosswalks that will be constructed in the project area. The Manager reported the project has to be completed by September. The project is also being funded with Downtown Revitalization grant dollars, as is the creation of the Bridge Street parking lot, and Point Park stairs. The same funds are also being used by individual business or property owners for property rehabilitation, which funds they are required to match.

The motion CARRIED.

2015 Paving Program Contractor Award

The City Manager formally requested Ordinance No. 2015-33 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RONYAK PAVING INC., OF 14376 N. CHESHIRE STREET, BURTON, OH 44021, FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,389,956.70, AS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE BID FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S 2015 PAVING PROJECT. FUNDING FOR THIS EXPENDITURE WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE STREET PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND, 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Bridge Sealing Consent Legislation

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into a consent agreement with ODOT for the purpose of providing deck sealing for all major bridges in Ashtabula County. The Manager reported this to be a two-million dollar project, that part of the Route 20 viaduct is located in the City limits, so we are required to provide legislation that will be included with the memorandum. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the Manager's request. The President asked if this is the only bridge within the City limits that will be addressed. The Manager responded, "That's the only one on Federal Routes that they'll be doing. This will be at no cost to the City. The motion CARRIED.

Yard Waste Pick Up

The City Manager reported that curbside yard waste bag pick up began in the wards today, will continue until May 25, no stickers are required, and the entire schedule for the year is on the City's website at www.cityofashtabula.com. During the months of June, July, August and September there will be no curbside pick up but bags may be deposited at the West 24th Street Transfer Station. Sticks and branches for curbside pick up should be grouped in bundles, and should be no more than 3 foot in length and weigh no more than 20 pounds.

Joint Economic Development District (J.E.D.D.)

The City Manager reported forwarding the newest JEDD application, "The Lantern at Saybrook", on Route 20, being constructed at the former Dalhkempers site, to the Clerk of Council, and that the Clerk has scheduled the public hearing for Tuesday, May 12.

He reported forwarding the JEDD information to Saybrook Township because they will need to hold a public hearing in order to get the JEDD passed.

Questions and Comments for the City Manager

Yard Waste: At the request of the Ward 2 Councilor, the Manager said he has to check with the Public Services Superintendent (PSS) to see if a place can be designated in order for residents to personally deliver their yard waste bags to the Transfer Station after houses. The Manager reported that traditionally, during non-pick up months, the trailer is left outside the gate, for convenience. He said he does not believe it will be a problem, but wanted to check first. Once he has the answer he will place it on the City's website.

Pothole Hotline: At the suggestion of the Ward 2 Councilor, the City Manager reported a pothole hotline has been established. The phone number is 992-7100. Presently it only has the following message: "please leave a message at the tone". Soon it will say "we would like you to leave as much information as possible, he gave examples of that information, he said the line will be monitored, directions on what to do if immediate attention is needed will be provided, but that there will be no callbacks unless more information is needed. He cautioned that a callback can only happen if a phone number is provided. The Manger reported crews are filling potholes as weather permits, and have concentrated their efforts on the main roads.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Extended Income Tax Department Hours: The Finance Director reported the department will be open on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with three staff members present, and on Tuesday, April 14, until 6:00 p.m.

Property Taxes: The first half property tax revenue of \$266,000 was received. It is in the Police Levy Fund, and will remain there. The Finance Director offered to provide detailed expenditures and revenue numbers, if requested.

Formal Legislation Request: The Finance Director formally requested ORDINANCE NO. 2015-48 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, POLICE LEVY, MAREDDY ESTATES ASSESSMENT, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (WPC) AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CAPITAL (WPCC) FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSE AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Finance Director's request; motion CARRIED.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation (Mrs. Misener/Mr. McClure)

The Chair reported the following:

Meetings: The Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 14, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room. The Parks & Recreation Board will meet the same day at 6:30 p.m.

Public Meeting: The Planning & Community Development Department hosted a meeting for the purpose of informing and educating the public about grant funding that is available to the community if certain requirements are met. The Star Beacon had a nice article about it. Approximately forty (40) invitations were issued, with about twelve (12) people representing various entities attending. Follow up will be required in order to obtain the information necessary to submit the grant application. The application has to show need, and the City has to development a target area, and a plan. Meeting attendants could select the following target areas: Walnut Beach, parks and recreation, economic development in the form of loans and grants to small businesses, Main Avenue area, Waste Water, demolition, public service, My Neighborhood Group, and education. Attendants selected the following top four categories: economic development in form of loans and grants to small businesses, demolition, My Neighborhood Group, and education. Thursday was the first step in the grant cycle process. The grant submission deadline is this summer, perhaps June. The Chair provided each member of Council with the packet that was handed out at the meeting, and told them there is valuable information therein.

Finance and Personnel - (Mr. Ducro IV/Mr. Balog)

The Chair announced the committee would meet on Friday, April 17, a week later than usual, at 8:00 a.m. The primary topic will be funding EPA findings at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Public Works/Utilities/Schools – (Mr. McClure/Mr. Pugliese)

The Chair announced the committee would meet on Friday, May 1, at 8:00 a.m., and that representatives from the Ashtabula Area City Schools would be present.

Safety Forces – (Mr. Balog/Mrs. Misener)

The Chair reported on the committee's Monday, March 23, meeting, as follows:

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (OBCI): We had hoped to speak with them about grant services and other opportunities that may be available for our area. They were unable to attend because of an emergency. In today's Pre-Council meeting, the Clerk of Council reported she has issued an invitation to OBCI to attend the committee's April 27 meeting.

Speed Limit Signs: After receiving report from the City Solicitor that in the absence of speed limit signs in residential areas, the default speed is 25 miles per hour, the committee decided to decline requests to have speed limit signs posted on East 45th Street (east of State Road), and Ohio Avenue.

Police Levy Hires: Two (2) Dispatchers were hired, which placed two (2) Patrolmen back on the road. Three (3) officers were hired; two (2) of which are in the police academy, and one (1) is seeking to leave his position with the federal government to work for us. There remains a shortage of candidates to fill the five (5) promised hires with the levy funds. Another Civil Service test will be scheduled soon with the hopes of getting more candidates to consider.

The President told the committee one of the new hires resides on Spencer Avenue. His neighbors are delighted he is, have embraced him, and like seeing a patrol car in his driveway. The problems which plagued the street have moved out. This evening the President reported the officer did not previously live there; he purchased the home, moved into the neighborhood and was commended for doing so. He said, "When the employees of the City live right in the heart of the City, I think it makes a big difference – no matter what position they hold in the City – but in Police service I think it's certainly very visible and has a great positive impact". The Chair concurred and said, 'Of course I think every City employee should live in the City, but we're not allowed to even discuss that, apparently".

Body Cameras: The committee discussed purchasing. The Police Chief Robert Stell told the committee some of the cameras may be used on the officer's person and in the vehicle. Grants are being researched because it is important to have the equipment, which is very expensive.

Dispatch Center: The committee was told the Center is in much need of an upgrade. The Manager will have more to report once the project gets closer to commencing.

Police Department K9's: There are three (3) K9 Officers in service. The average age of a K9 Officer is 2 to 7.

Fire Department

New Fire Chief & Fire Marshall: Chief Shawn Gruber and Fire Marshall Denny Page were introduced.

Safety Forces Budgets: The Finance Director reported the Fire and Police Division budgets are "somewhat", but "not terribly" over budget for this time of the year, mainly due to employment separations, retirements, and injuries.

Safe Neighborhood Initiative: This program was presented in our City in the late summer/early fall of 2014. The Manager and Police Chief report it has "somewhat" helped with violent crime in our City. The initiative targets people that are known to be associated with violent criminals. It called them into a confronting setting, and is having some effect.

Parking on West end of East 45th Street: The Ward 4 Councilor is obtaining more details regarding a request to prohibit parking on a portion of the street.

Questions and Comments for Safety Forces Committee

Safe Neighborhood Initiative: The City Manager reported that on April 1, we received an email from Mr. Fiatal with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, stating they are organizing another intervention session with at risk individuals. They also hope to expand the efforts into the juvenile probationers. He will keep Council updated. The Ward 4 Councilor asked if it will happen the same way as it did last year. The Manager responded yes.

Police Division Hires: The Vice President sought clarification of the hires. The Manager said 2 dispatchers and 3 officers were hired. Two were hired part-time and are going through the Police Academy, and should be finished in the next month. There remain 2 officer positions to fill. Last week we were told that one of our officers is resigning and moving to a position in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office, which will need to be filled. We have been speaking with Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority about hiring officers to patrol their facilities. So Civil Service testing is needed.

The Vice President said, "We've got monies coming in from the levy, we haven't fill all those spots, and we're over budget. I don't understand that." The Manager said levy funds are not being used except for levy activity. The funds are sitting in the separate Levy income and expenses line items. The Finance Director further stated the funds will remain as part of the cash balance on the income side, and that carryovers will be used specifically for those new hires. The Ward 4 Councilor said, in other words since it has not been fully expended, it will be carried past the five (5) year levy mark. The Finance Director responded, "There could be raises, unusual overtime, etc., because in five years a lot can happen, the cushion is there to use for those hires."

Meeting: The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on Monday, April 27, at 4:00 p.m. The availability of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (OBCI) representative will determine if the meeting takes place.

Work Session – N/A

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)

The President briefly outlined the Legislation Agenda. There were no public comments

CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL

The President entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Legislation Agenda in Consent agenda format. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for consent agenda format disposal:

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Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the above Regular Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings of the above Regular Agenda Legislation. On the roll call to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the above legislation: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

First Baptist Church Parking (corner 44th Street & Park Avenue): The City Manager reported Pastor Wright called him last week to discuss the church's parking availability relative to the library's upcoming expansion project. The library owns the parking lot the church presently uses, which previously was owned by the Ashtabula Area City Schools. It will be used as the staging area during the expansion project. This will limit the churches parking from this point forward.

The Manager requested legislation to have the 30 minute parking signs on the west side of the Lance CPL Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park changed to 30 minutes unless church services are in, similar to what was enacted on Lake Avenue for St. Joseph's Church. He also asked the Police Chief to evaluate the possibility of permitting parking on the north side of West 44th Street, the length of the Cornelius Park, where parking is currently prohibited. He offered the church the use of the City's parking lot near the former Carlisle's parking lot. He said once he has all the information he will bring it to Council.

MISCELLANEOUS

Union Negotiations: The Ward 2 Councilor asked if we are in negotiations. The Manager said the first round will begin on April 14.

Cleanups: The President suggested/challenged Ward Councilors to coordinator a cleanup in their respective areas, or somewhere in the City that may be a problem, including roadside areas, within the next couple of months. He said this will show leadership, and only has to be one or two hours. He said several people in the community are willing to support this type effort, so he would like a plan created and posted for the public to see. The President said the one spot that is really an irritant to him is on Main Avenue, south of the Chalk Box. There are trash bags torn open and trash strewn all over the hill. He said it is concentrated in one area so it would not take long to cleanup.

The Ward 4 Councilor asked if probationers can perform community 'clean up' service. The Manager yes and that it is an active program through the Probation Department. The Councilor asked if the section the President mentioned could be cleaned by probationers. The Manager said yes, but that if people know they are going to work outside they will not show up.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CLOSING REMARKS

Meetings

The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

Encouragement: The President asked everyone to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: May 4, 2015

ATTESTED BY: J.P. Ducro IV
J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: LaVette E. Hennigan
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council